

AVENGERS vs X-men®

MARVEL

VS

ROUND 4



HICKMAN
ROMITA
HANNA
MARTIN

AVX

ROUND 4

THE COSMIC PHOENIX FORCE IS RETURNING TO EARTH. TO THE AVENGERS, IT HERALDS THE END OF THE WORLD. TO THE X-MEN, IT REPRESENTS THE REBIRTH OF THEIR SPECIES.

WHEN HOPE SUMMERS, THE PHOENIX FORCE'S CHOSEN HOST, FLED UTOPIA, THE AVENGERS AND THE X-MEN DISPATCHED TEAMS ACROSS THE GLOBE TO FIND HER. ADDITIONALLY, AN AVENGERS AWAY MISSION INTENDS TO INTERCEPT THE PHOENIX FORCE IN DEEP SPACE.

WOLVERINE BELIEVES THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO KILL HOPE. IN ORDER TO STOP HIM, CAPTAIN AMERICA STRANDED HIM IN THE ANTARCTIC TUNDRA.



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MATT FRACTION AND JONATHAN HICKMAN**

STORY

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HICKMAN**

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HOPE

ANTARCTICA



WOLVERINE

OUTER SPACE AWAY MISSION



THOR



WAR MACHINE



VALKYRIE



THE VISION



MS. MARVEL



PROTECTOR



CAPTAIN BRITAIN



BEAST

HELLFIRE CLUB SAFE HOUSE



CYCLOPS



EMMA FROST

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



TOAD

WAKANDA



BLACK WIDOW



QUICKSILVER



IRON FIST



BLACK PANTHER



DANGER



MAGMA



STORM



DR. NEMESIS



RACHEL SUMMERS

TABULA RASA



LUKE CAGE



THE THING



NAMOR



HEPZIBAH



SUNSPOT

LATVERIA



DAREDEVIL



SPIDER-MAN



SPIDER-WOMAN



MOCKINGBIRD



COLOSSUS



DOMINO



DAZZLER

WUNDAGORE MOUNTAIN



RED HULK



HAWKEYE



DOCTOR STRANGE



MAGNETO



ICEMAN



ANGEL



PSYLOCKE

SAVAGE LAND



CAPTAIN AMERICA



GIANT-MAN



MADISON JEFFRIES



WARPATH



GAMBIT



MAGIK

AVENGERS TOWER

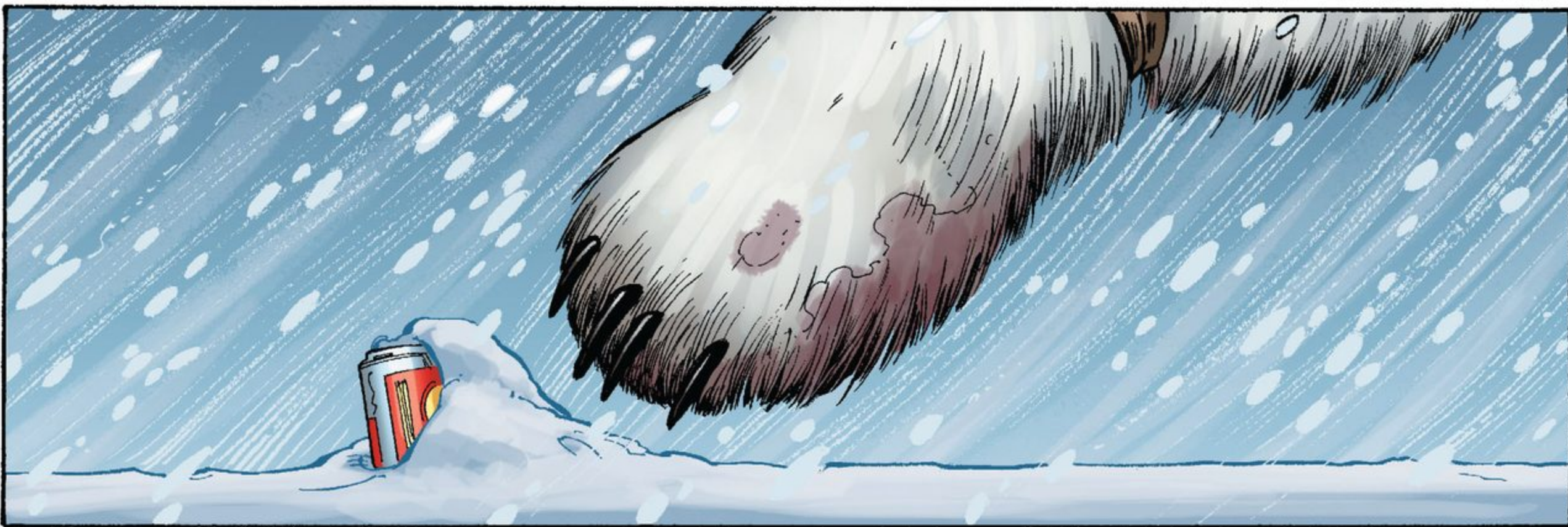
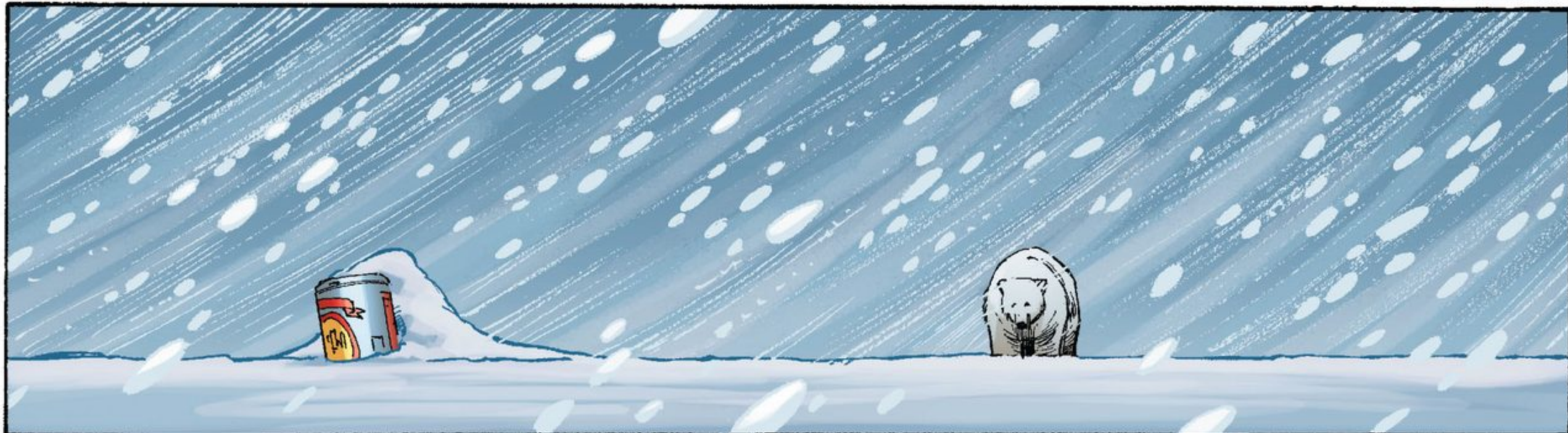


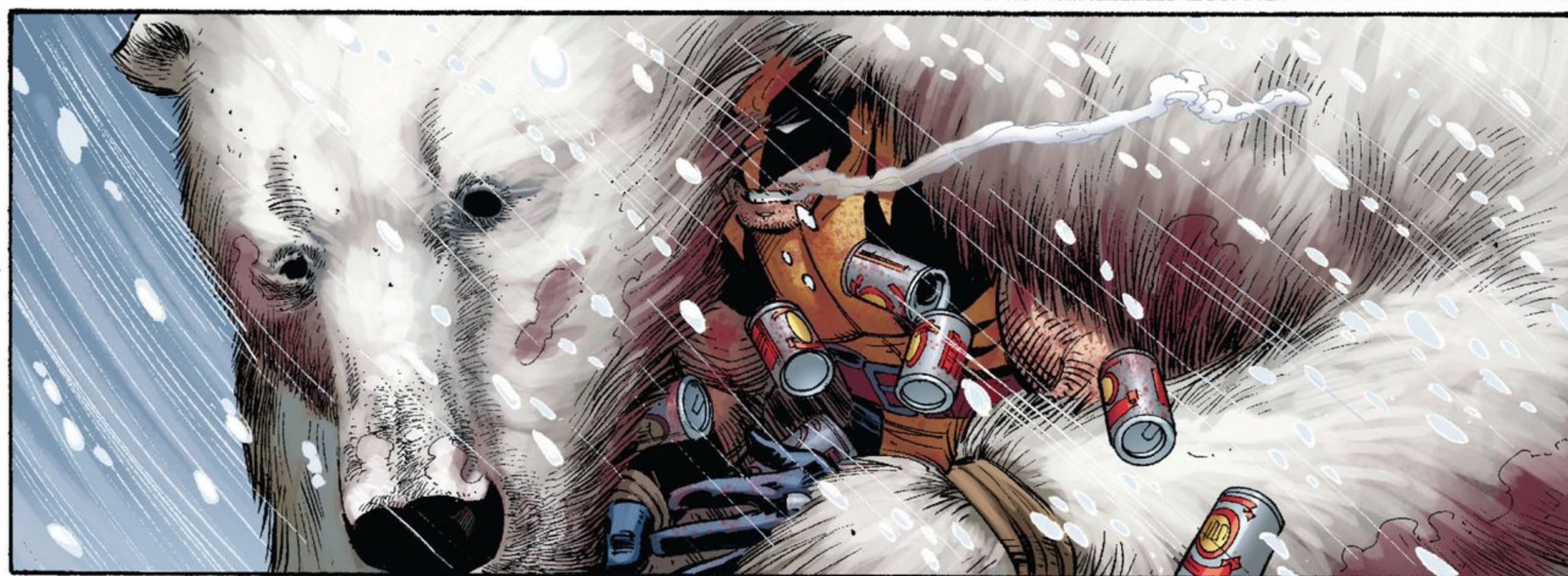
IRON MAN

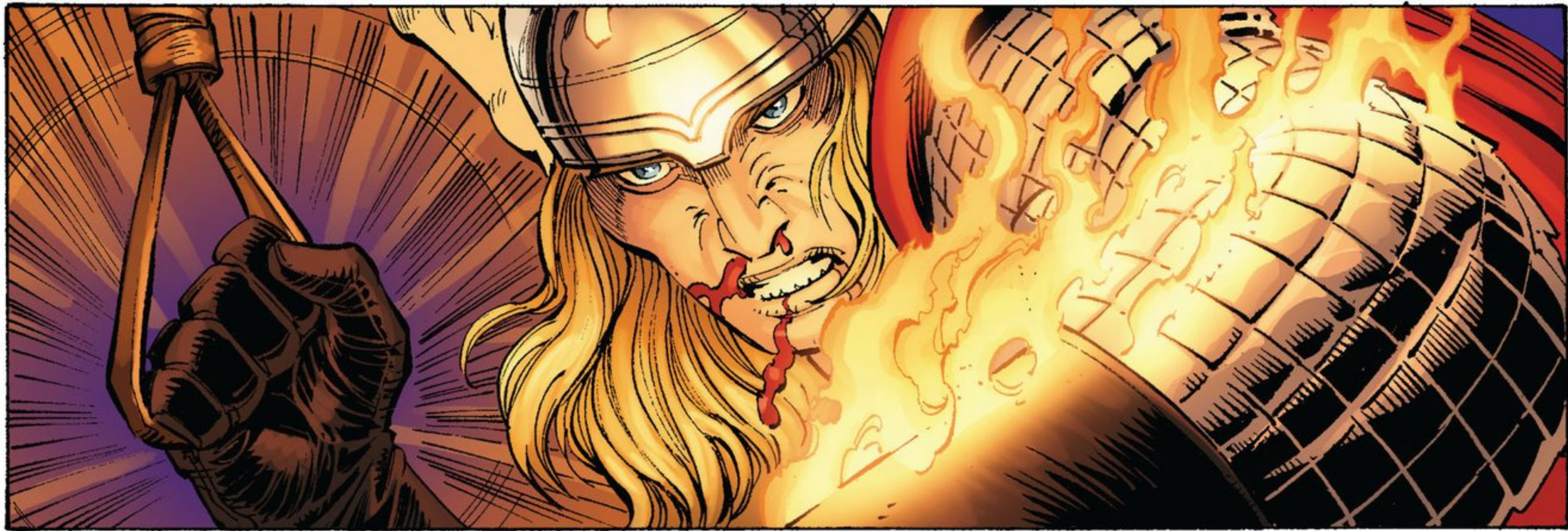
AVENGERS

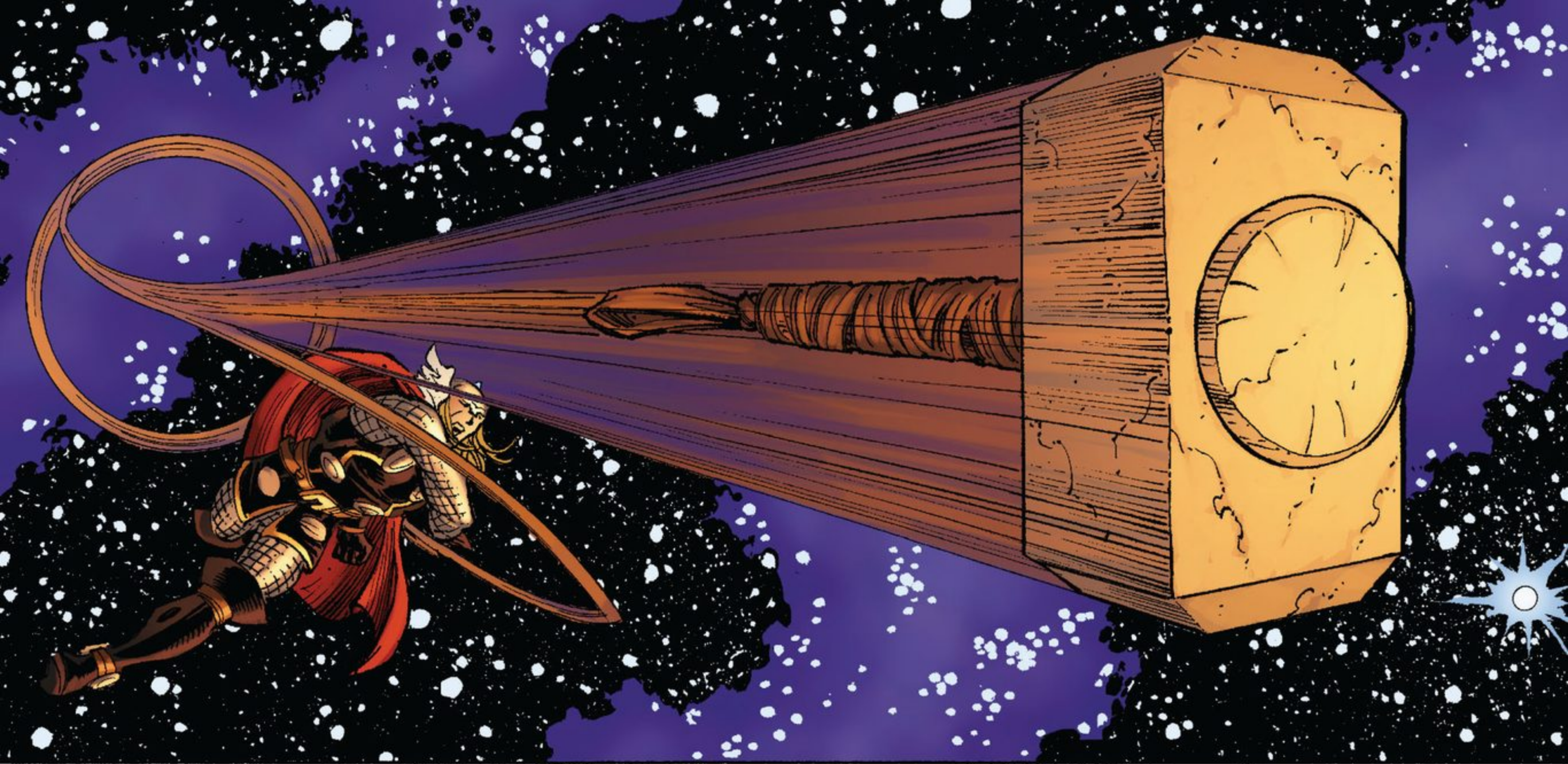
X-MEN

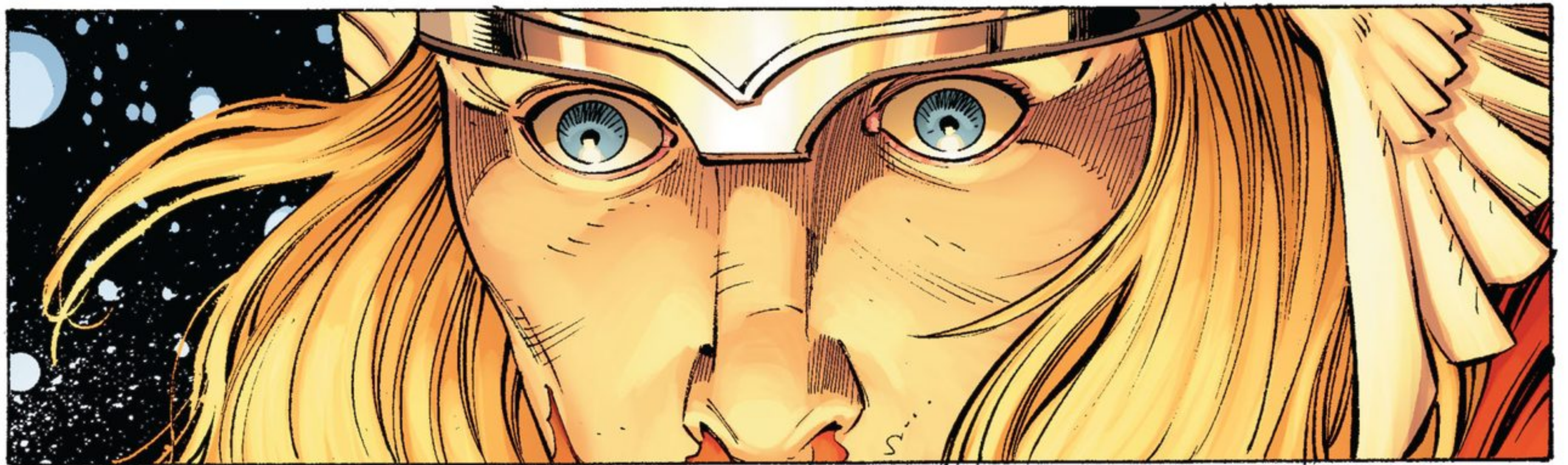
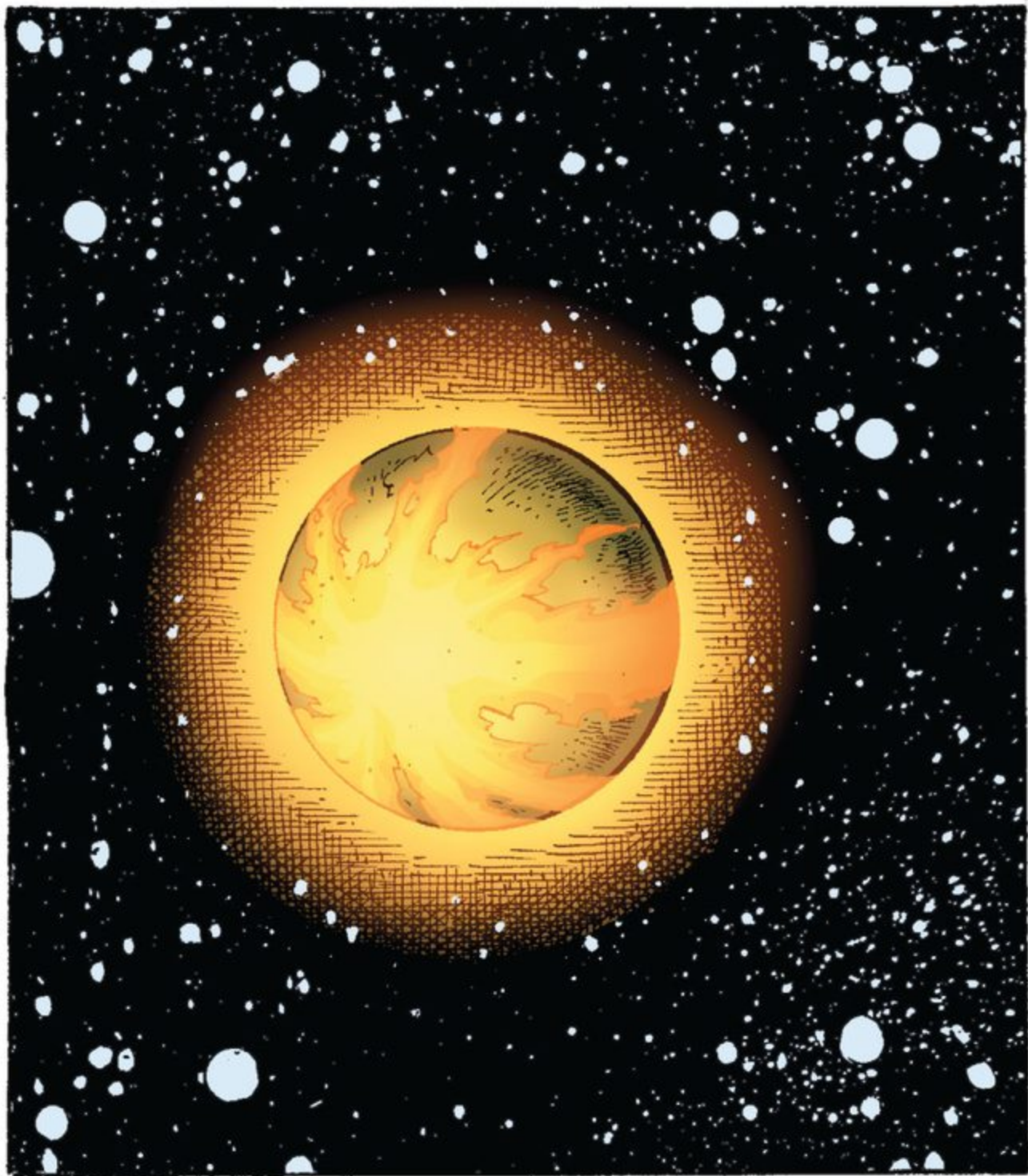
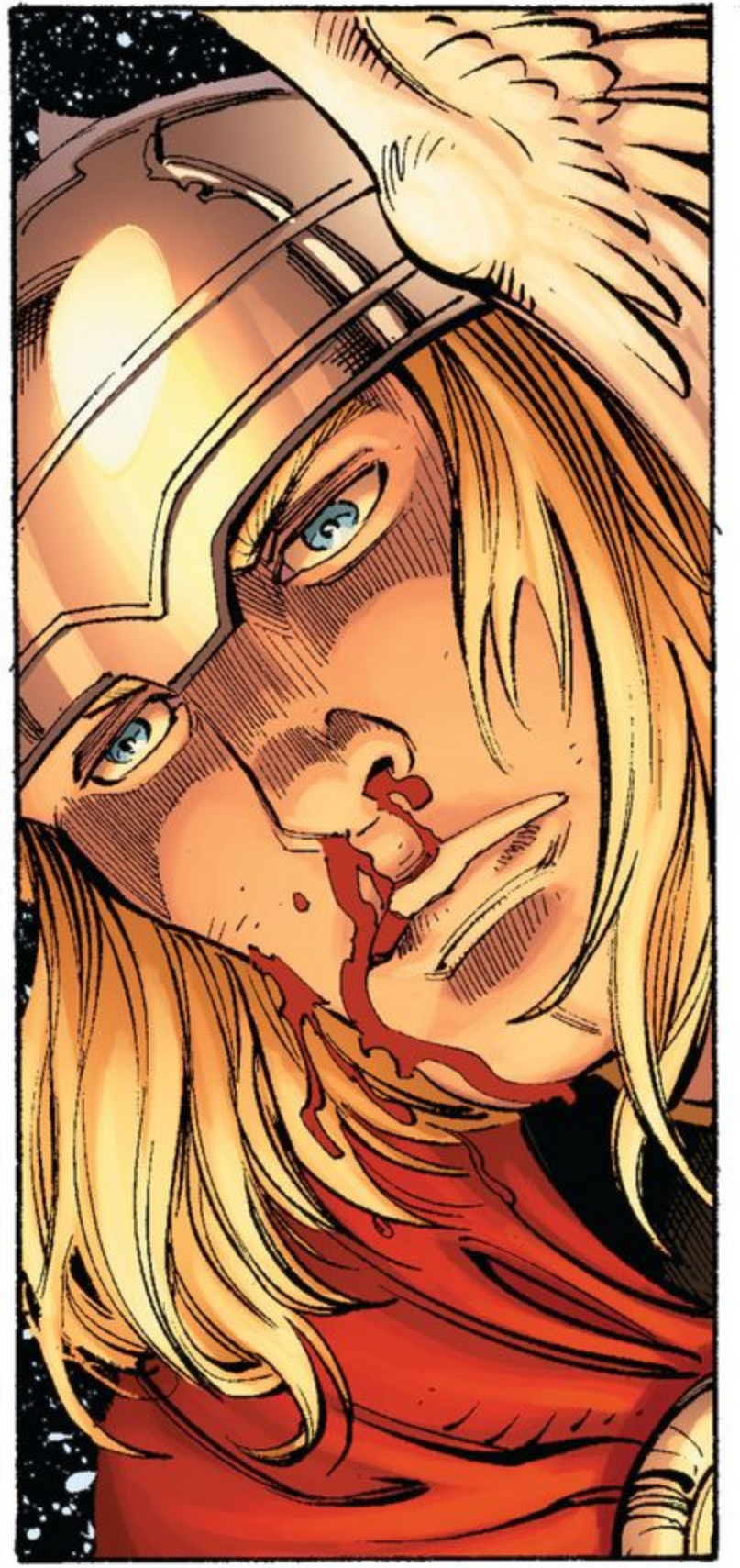
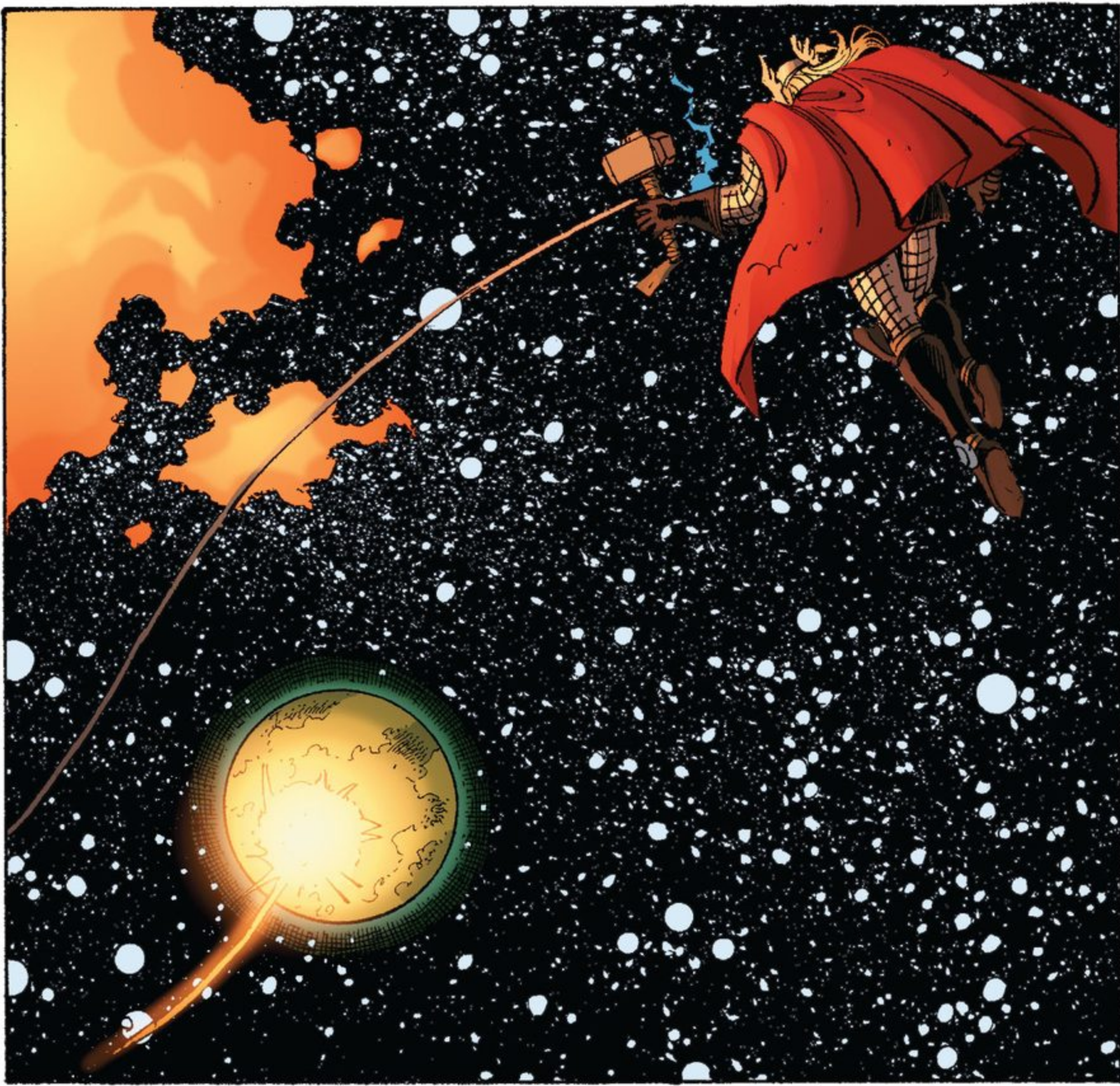
ANTARCTICA.







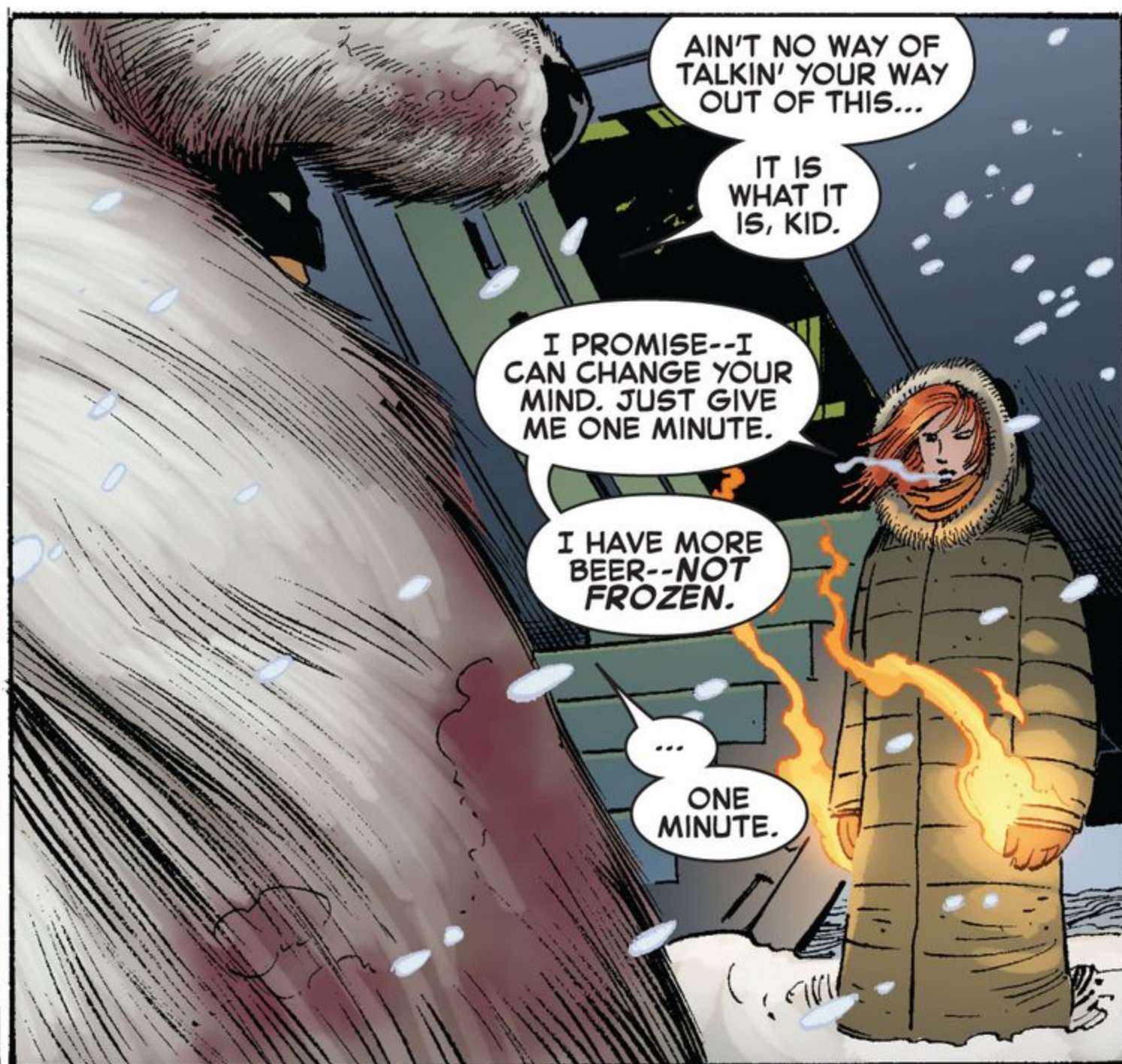






ANTARETICA.

LOGAN--
WAIT!



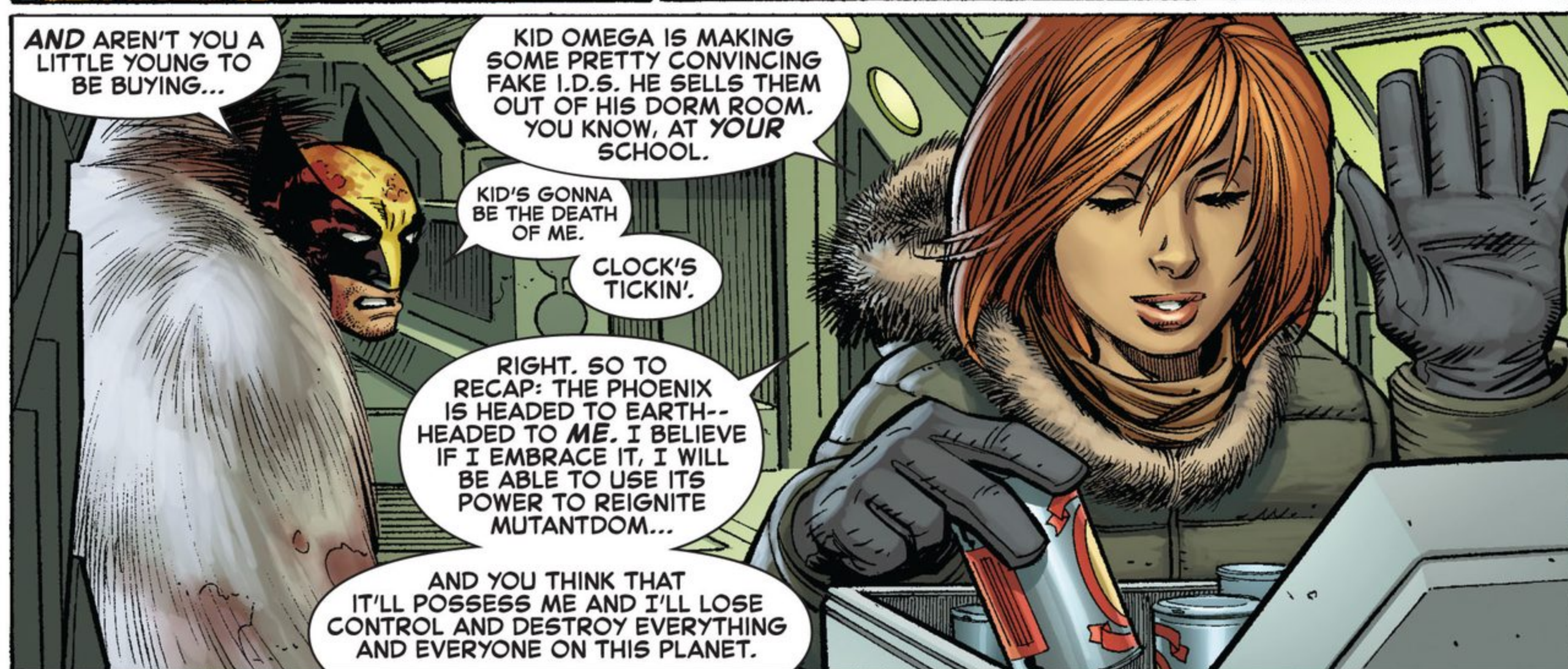
AIN'T NO WAY OF
TALKIN' YOUR WAY
OUT OF THIS...

IT IS
WHAT IT
IS, KID.

I PROMISE--I
CAN CHANGE YOUR
MIND. JUST GIVE
ME ONE MINUTE.

I HAVE MORE
BEER--NOT
FROZEN.

...
ONE
MINUTE.



AND AREN'T YOU A
LITTLE YOUNG TO
BE BUYING...

KID OMEGA IS MAKING
SOME PRETTY CONVINCING
FAKE I.D.S. HE SELLS THEM
OUT OF HIS DORM ROOM.
YOU KNOW, AT *YOUR*
SCHOOL.

KID'S GONNA
BE THE DEATH
OF ME.

CLOCK'S
TICKIN'.

RIGHT. SO TO
RECAP: THE PHOENIX
IS HEADED TO EARTH--
HEADED TO *ME*. I BELIEVE
IF I EMBRACE IT, I WILL
BE ABLE TO USE ITS
POWER TO REIGNITE
MUTANTDOM...

AND YOU THINK THAT
IT'LL POSSESS ME AND I'LL LOSE
CONTROL AND DESTROY EVERYTHING
AND EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET.



DON'T "THINK"--I
KNOW IT.

I'VE SEEN WHAT
THE BIRD DOES
WITH MY OWN
TWO EYES.

YEAH...BUT
WHAT IF I'M
RIGHT?

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THAT.



WELL, YOU SHOULD.
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT
YOUR SCHOOL IS ALL
ABOUT, ISN'T IT? KIDS
MAKING A BETTER
WORLD?

I BELIEVE THE
PHOENIX IS A THING OF
DESTINY--IT'S COMING
AND IT CAN'T BE
STOPPED.

I BELIEVE I'M MEANT
TO HAVE IT SO I CAN DO
ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS
THAT REBIRTH IMPLIES.

BUT JUST IN CASE
YOU'RE RIGHT AND
I'M WRONG--IN CASE
I CAN'T CONTROL
IT...YOU'RE THE ONLY
PERSON I TRUST
TO STOP ME.

BUT I
DESERVE A
CHANCE--I KNOW
DEEP DOWN YOU
DO BELIEVE THAT.



LET'S PRETEND
FOR A MOMENT
I'M ON BOARD.

YOU CERTAIN
THIS IS A DANCE
YOU'RE DOWN FOR,
LITTLE GIRL?



YES.

SO.
PLEASE.



...
YOU GOT
SOME KINDA
PLAN IN
MIND?

YEAH.

STARTS
WITH US
GETTING OUT
OF HERE.



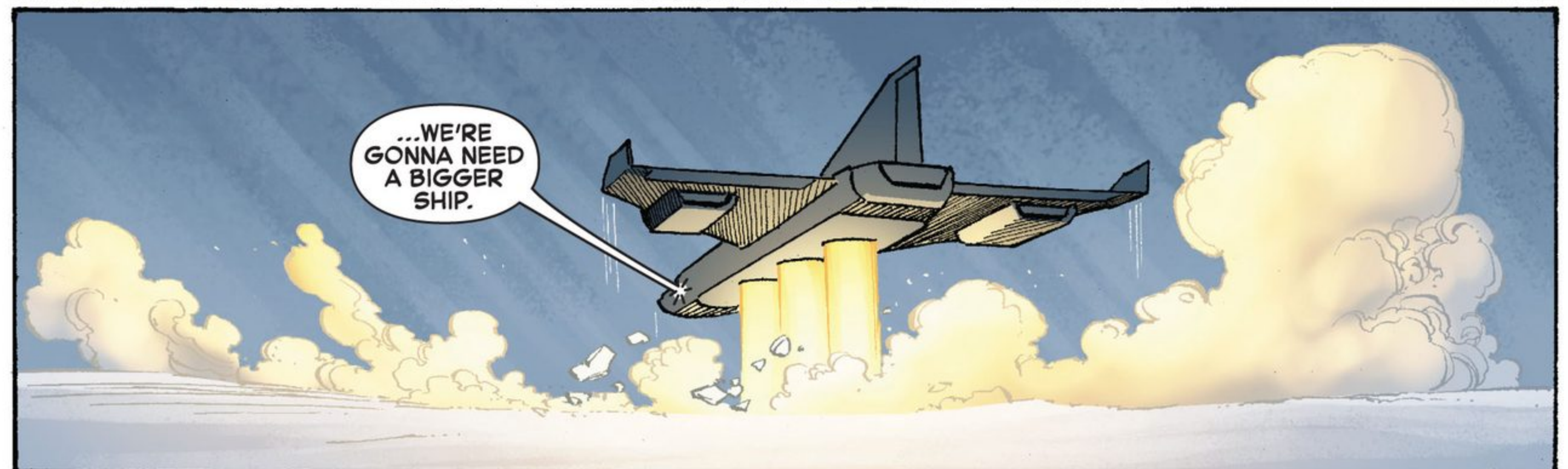
YOU CAN FLY
THIS PLANE,
RIGHT?

SURE.

OKAY, GREAT.
I NEED A NAP. I
WAS SO EXHAUSTED
FROM BEING ON THE
RUN I ALMOST
CRASHED THIS
THING EARLIER.

OKAY, AND
THEN? AFTER
THAT?

OH...



...WE'RE
GONNA NEED
A BIGGER
SHIP.

AN ABANDONED HELLFIRE CLUB SAFE HOUSE.

MORE OF WOLVERINE'S STUDENTS AND STAFF JOIN US ALL THE TIME. EVEN NOW, MORE ARE HEADING OVER TO OUR SIDE.

GOOD. WE NEED EVERYONE WE CAN GET. HOPE'S SOMEWHERE OUT THERE, RUNNING FOR HER LIFE, EMMA--THE SPARK TO REIGNITE ALL OF MUTANTKIND.

WE HAVE TO HELP HER.

YES, YES... FIVE FLICKERING FLAMES, LIGHTING UP THE WORLD.

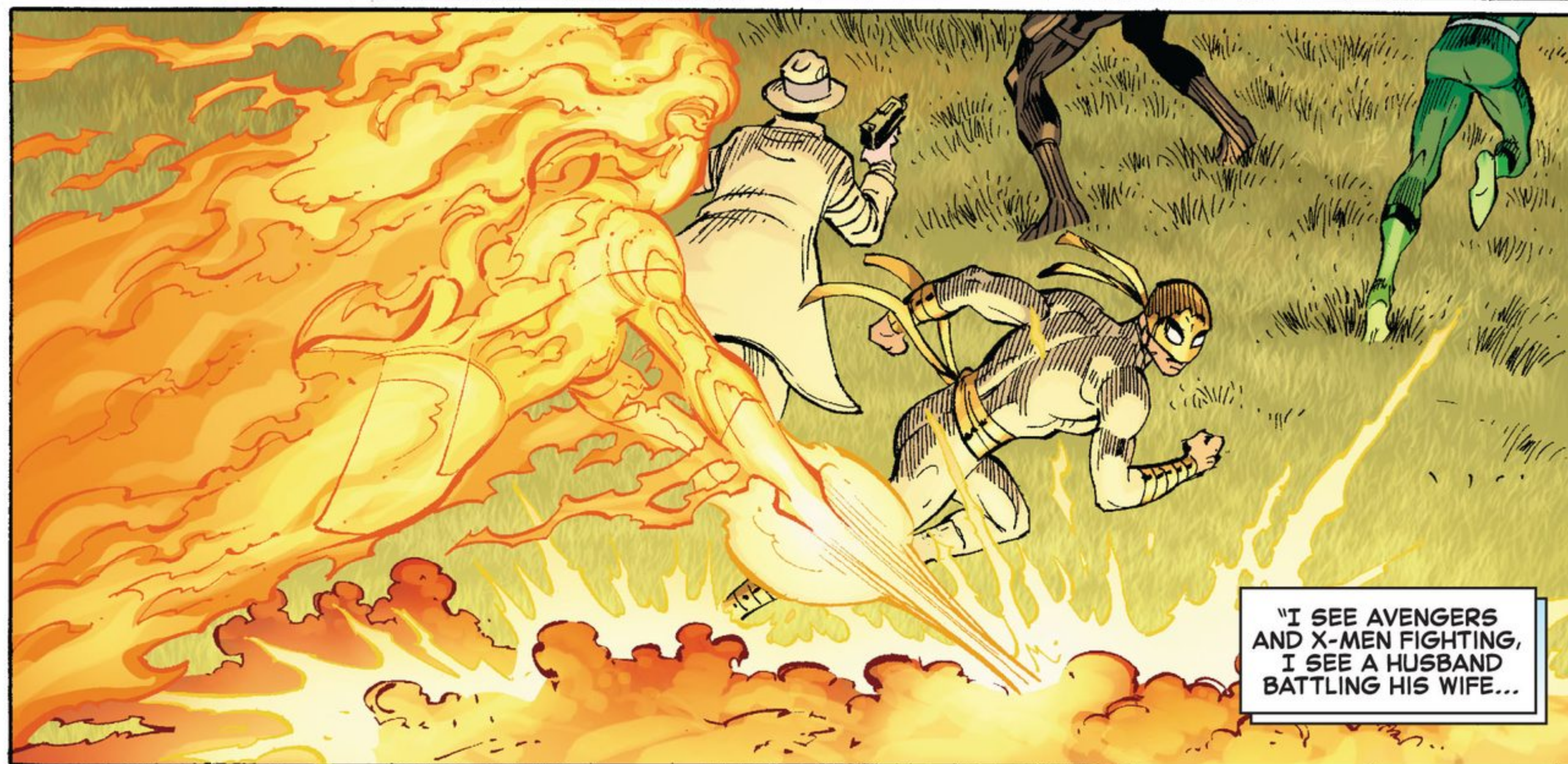
WE'VE SENT X-MEN TO ALL OF THE LOCATIONS IN THE HOPES OF FINDING HER OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO PREVENT THE AVENGERS FROM CATCHING HOPE.

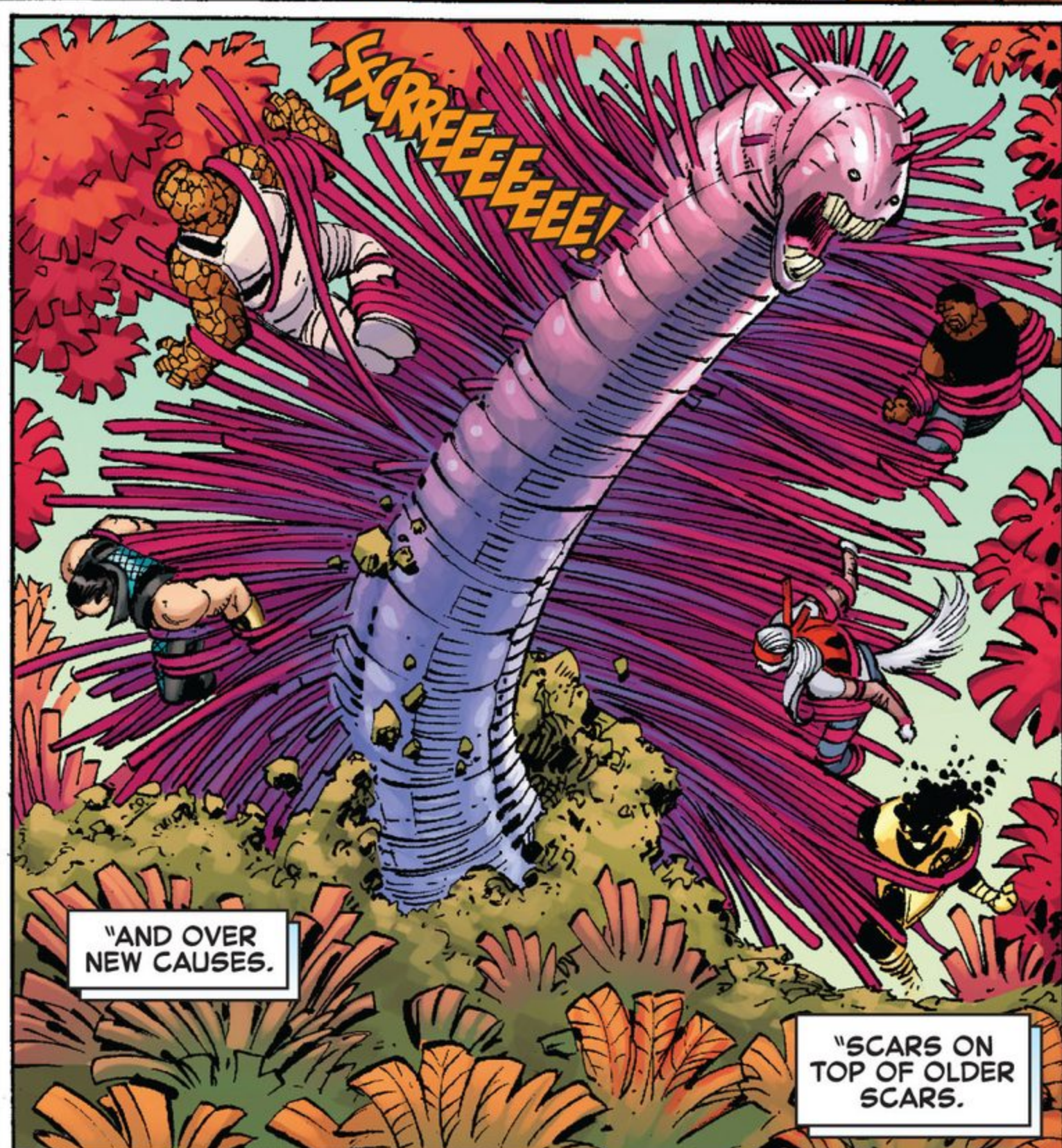
BUT IF WE'RE TRULY GOING TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF THEM, THEN WE'LL NEED SOMETHING MORE. CONCENTRATION FROM ME, CONTROL OF THE WEAKEST OF MINDS...

THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL FOR HIGHER LEARNING.

"AND A LITTLE HELP FROM CEREBRA."

AH!
HELLO, WORLD.





"AND IN LATVERIA..."

"THERE'S ALWAYS DOOM."

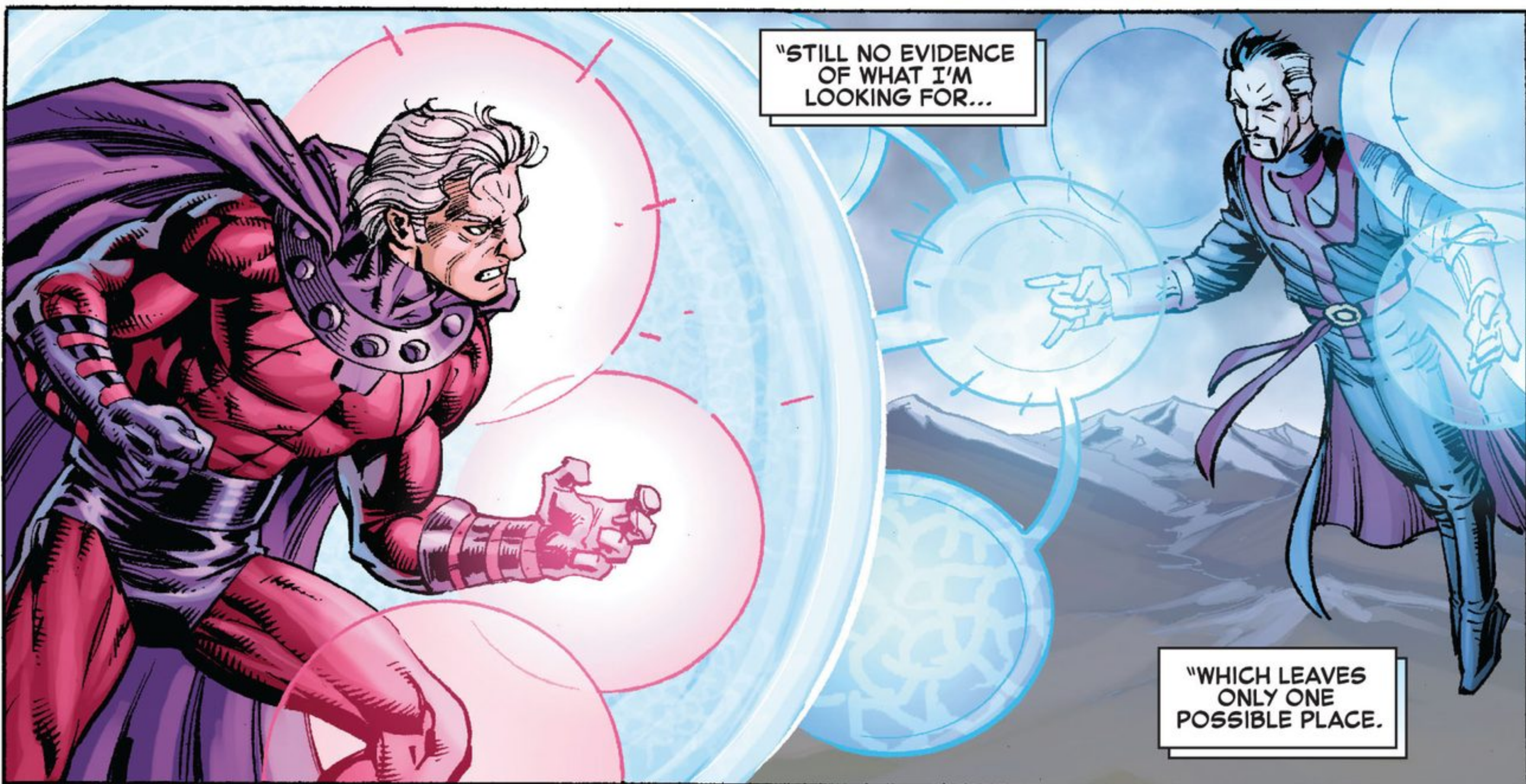
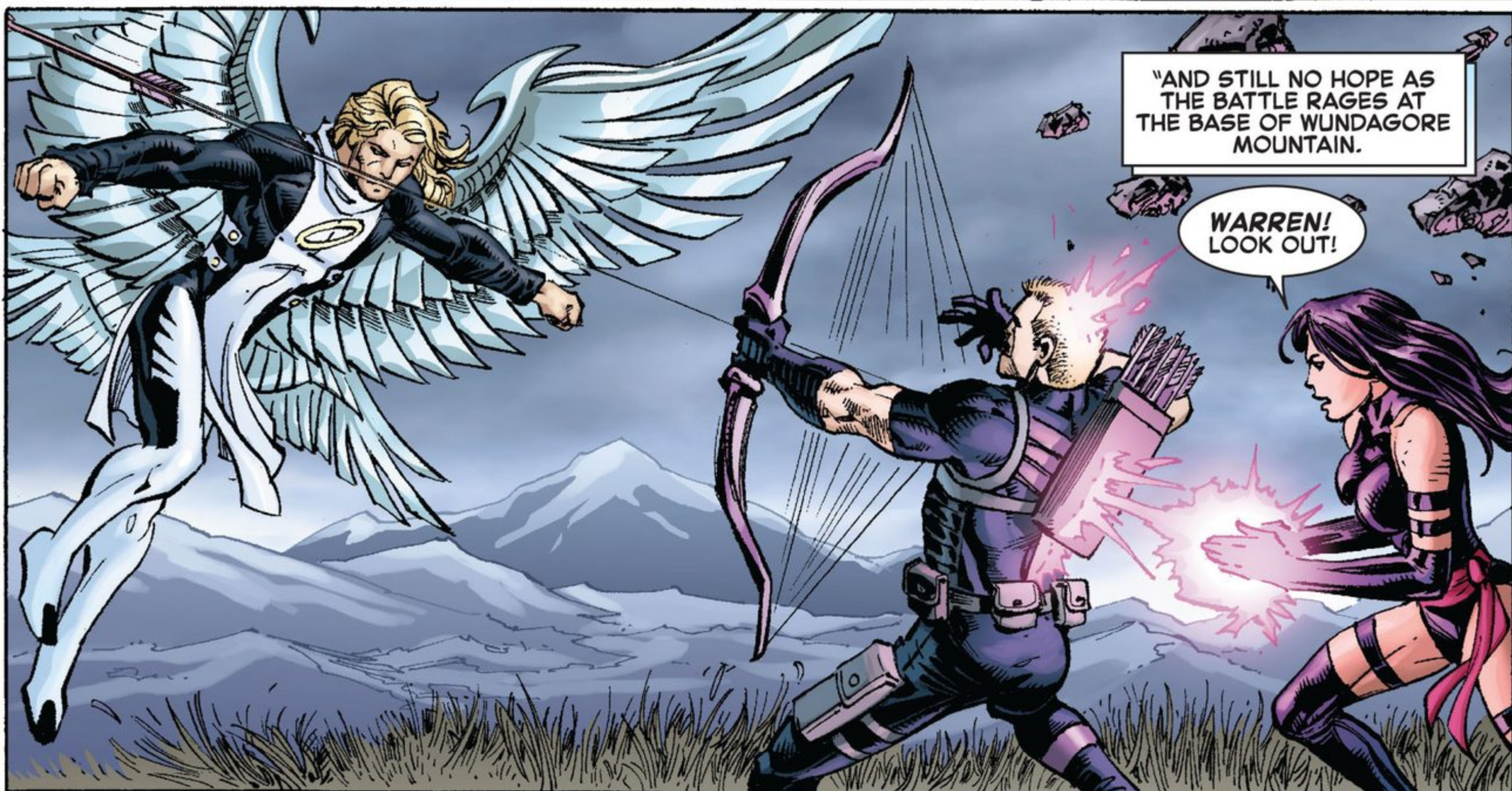
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WERE EXPECTING...

COME SEE THE GLORIOUS CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS, HOME OF HAIRY GOATS AND DOOMBOTS AND--WE PROMISE--EVERY MUTANT EXCEPT THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

HRRNN!

SOMEONE CALL FOR HELP.









SCOTT, HOPE'S NOT AT ANY OF THE LOCATIONS. TRICKY GIRL HAS FIGURED SOME WAY TO SCATTER HER SIGNAL.

SHE CAN'T BE FOUND THIS WAY, BUT **HE'S THERE**, DO YOU WANT ME TO--

DO IT.

WE ONLY NEED HOPE TO STAY FREE OR HIDDEN UNTIL THE PHOENIX ARRIVES.

UNTIL THEN, I NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEY KNOW.



I...
I...
I HAVE HIM.



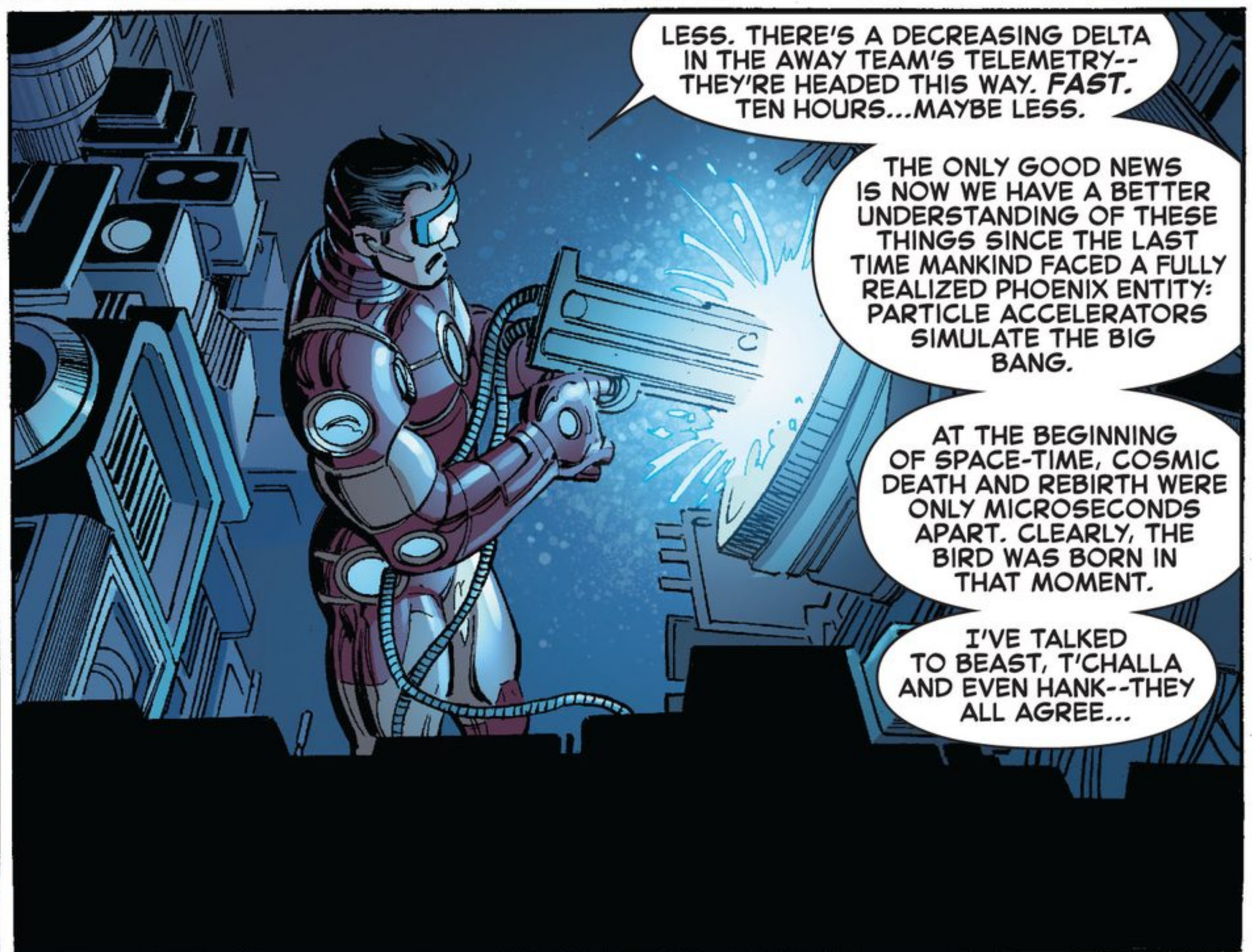
ANY LUCK FINDING THE GIRL, CAP?

LOOKS LIKE A DEAD END. SHE'S FOOLED ALL OF US, TONY...



AVENGERS TOWER.

HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT?



LESS. THERE'S A DECREASING DELTA IN THE AWAY TEAM'S TELEMTRY-- THEY'RE HEADED THIS WAY. **FAST**. TEN HOURS...MAYBE LESS.

THE ONLY GOOD NEWS IS NOW WE HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE THINGS SINCE THE LAST TIME MANKIND FACED A FULLY REALIZED PHOENIX ENTITY: PARTICLE ACCELERATORS SIMULATE THE BIG BANG.

AT THE BEGINNING OF SPACE-TIME, COSMIC DEATH AND REBIRTH WERE ONLY MICROSECONDS APART. CLEARLY, THE BIRD WAS BORN IN THAT MOMENT.

I'VE TALKED TO BEAST, T'CHALLA AND EVEN HANK--THEY ALL AGREE...



IF I'M GOING TO BUILD A PHOENIX-KILLER, I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CRACK UNIVERSAL EXPANSION.

YOU FOLLOWING ME, CAP?

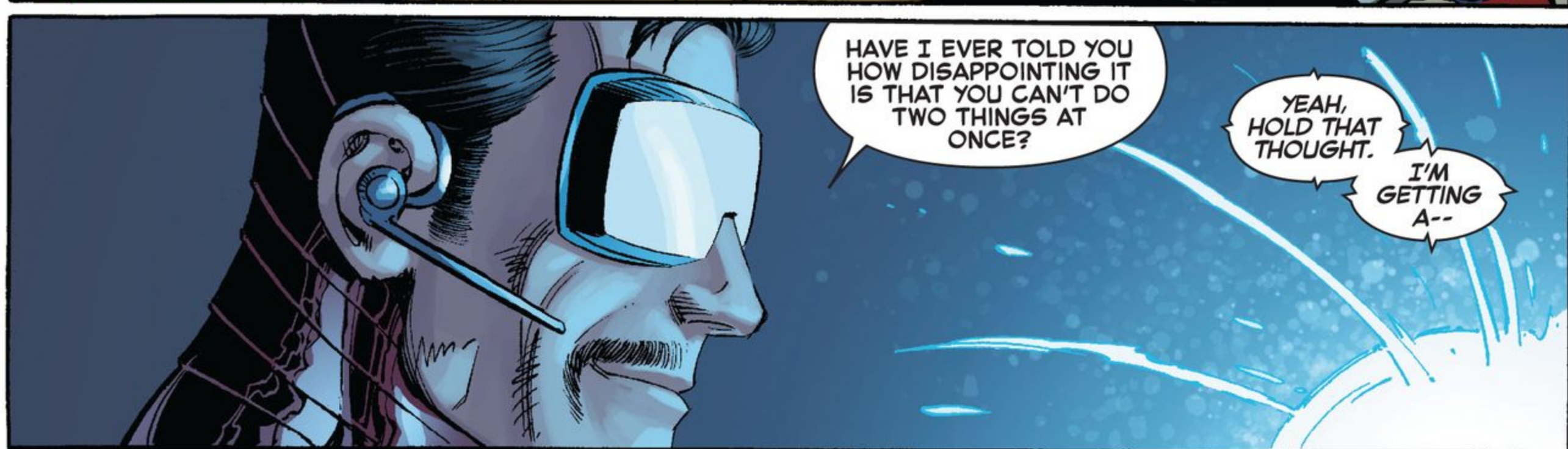


NOT REALLY.

FIND THE GIRL, GET THE GIRL. THAT I UNDERSTAND.

GIVE ME A SECOND.

CRACK!



HAVE I EVER TOLD YOU HOW DISAPPOINTING IT IS THAT YOU CAN'T DO TWO THINGS AT ONCE?

YEAH, HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

I'M GETTING A--



BE-DOOP!

WELL, I'LL BE...

TONY, PLEASE CONTACT ALL THE OTHER TEAMS AND HAVE THEM PULL BACK AND RENDEZVOUS AT THE TOWER.

NEW PLAN. WE DON'T HAVE TO CHASE HOPE ANYMORE.

YOU FOUND HER?

NO...

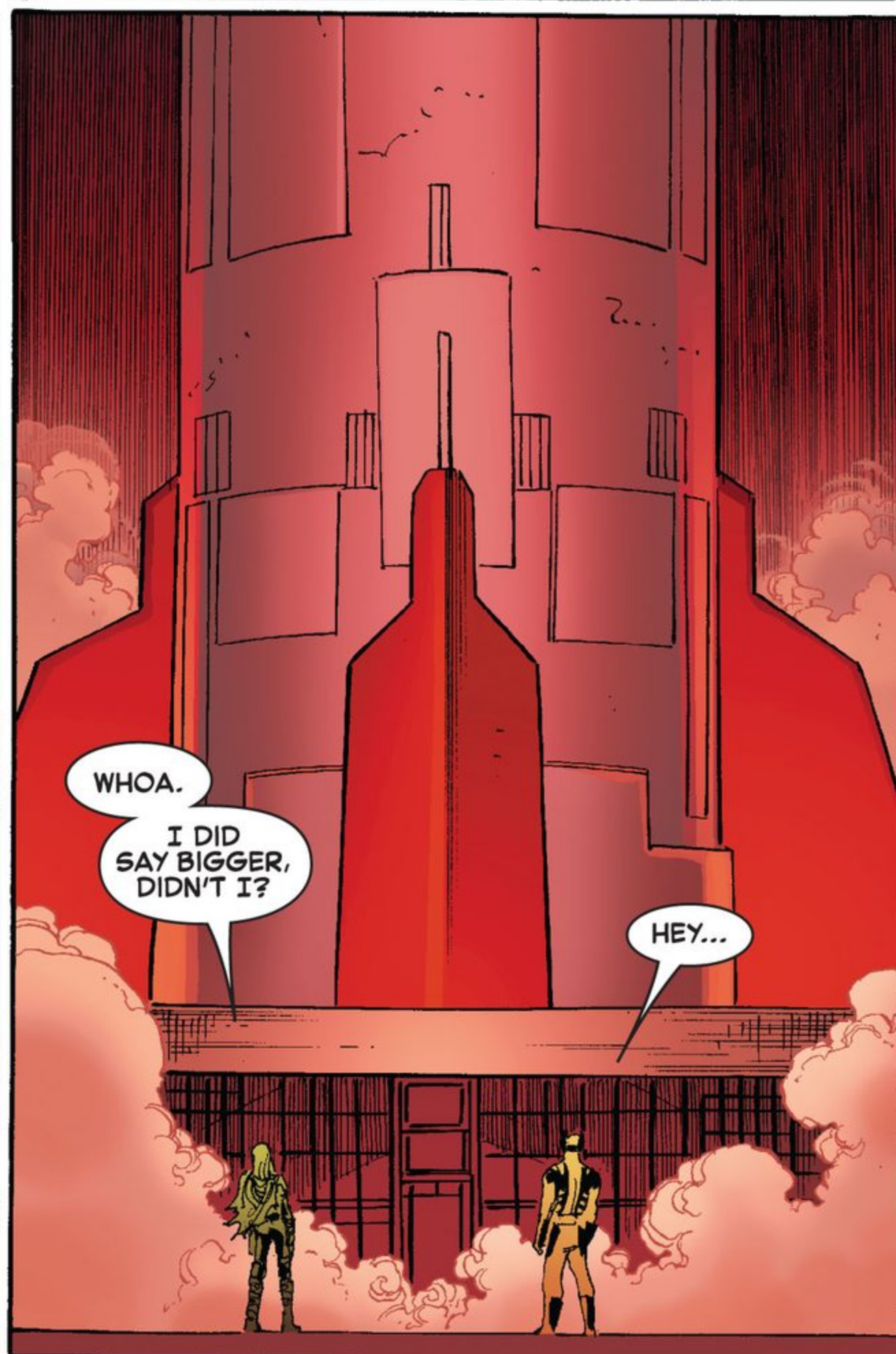


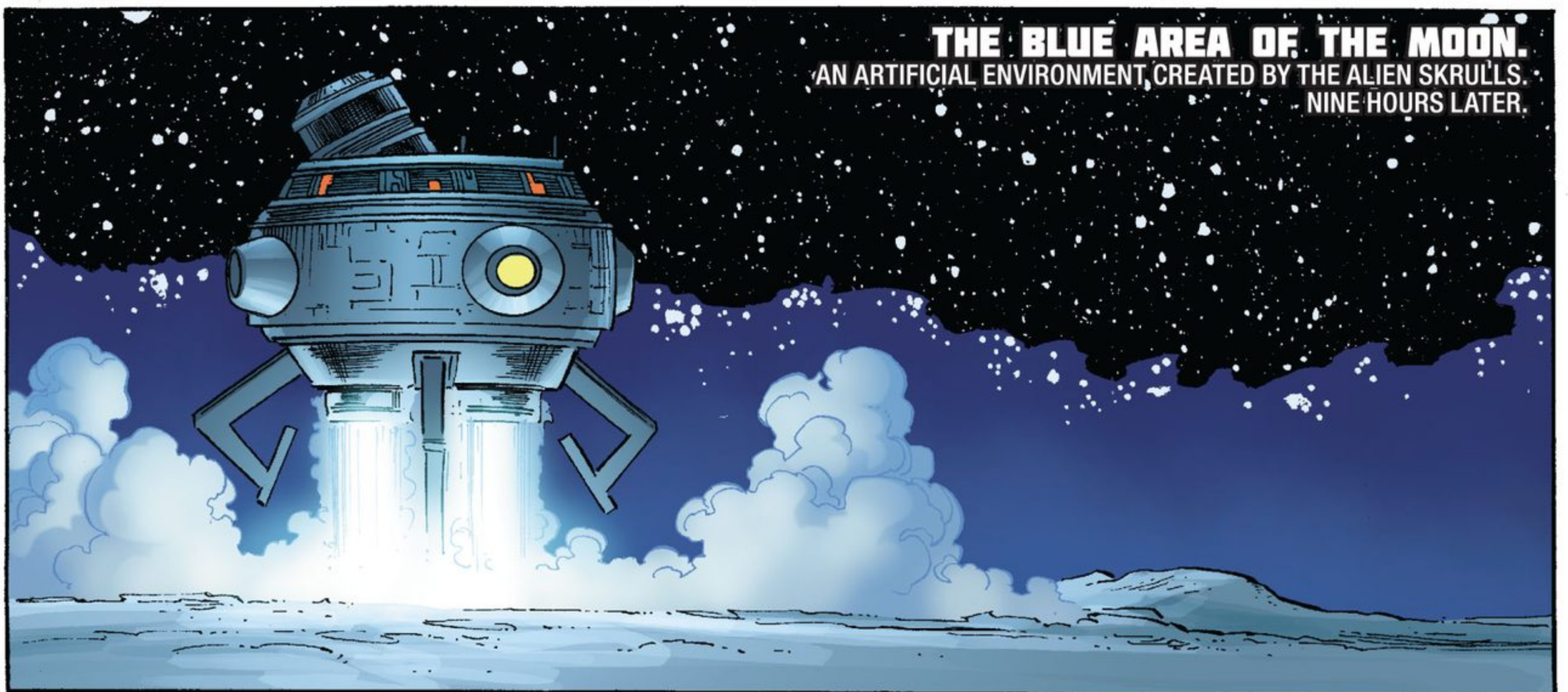
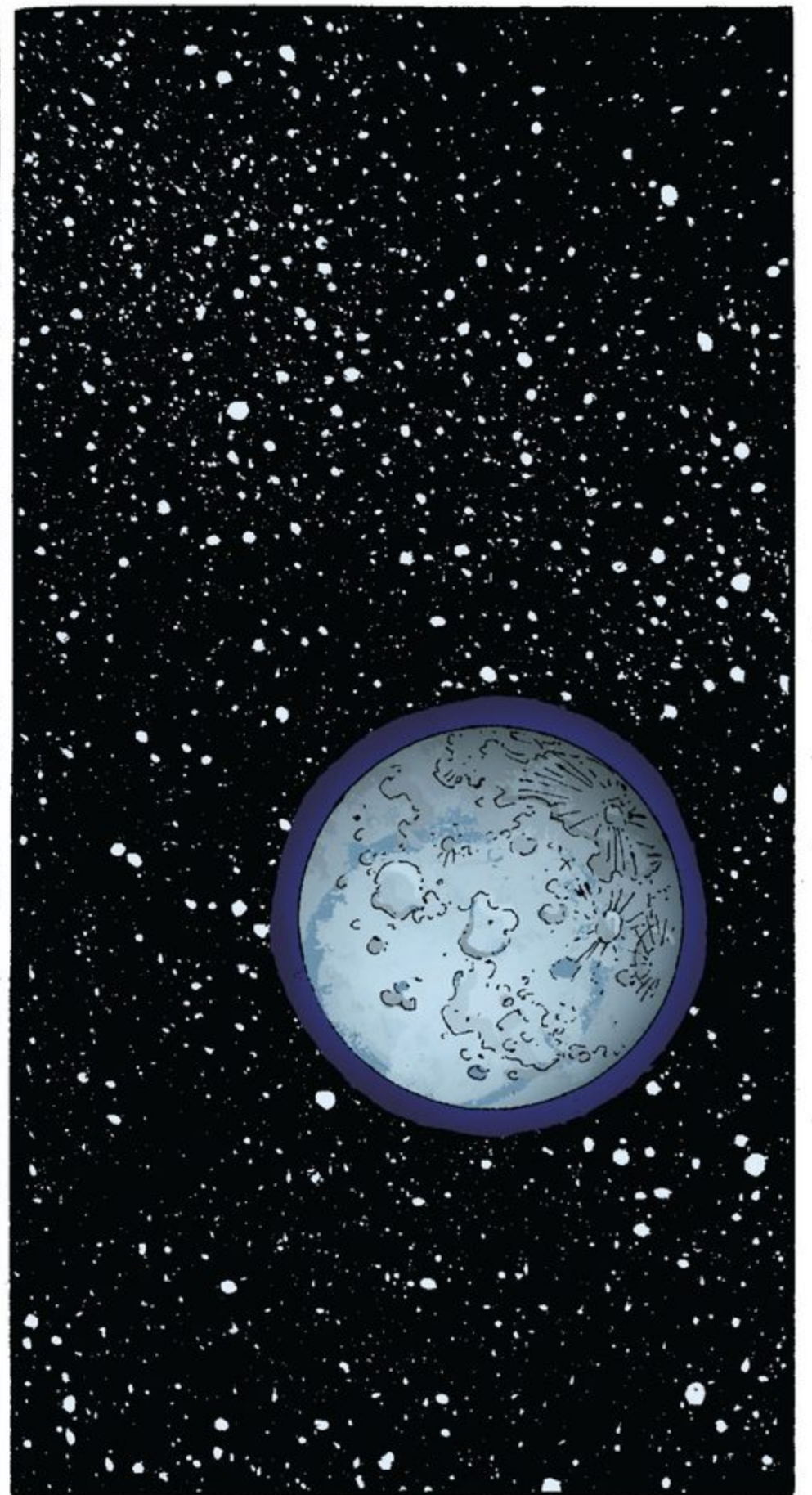
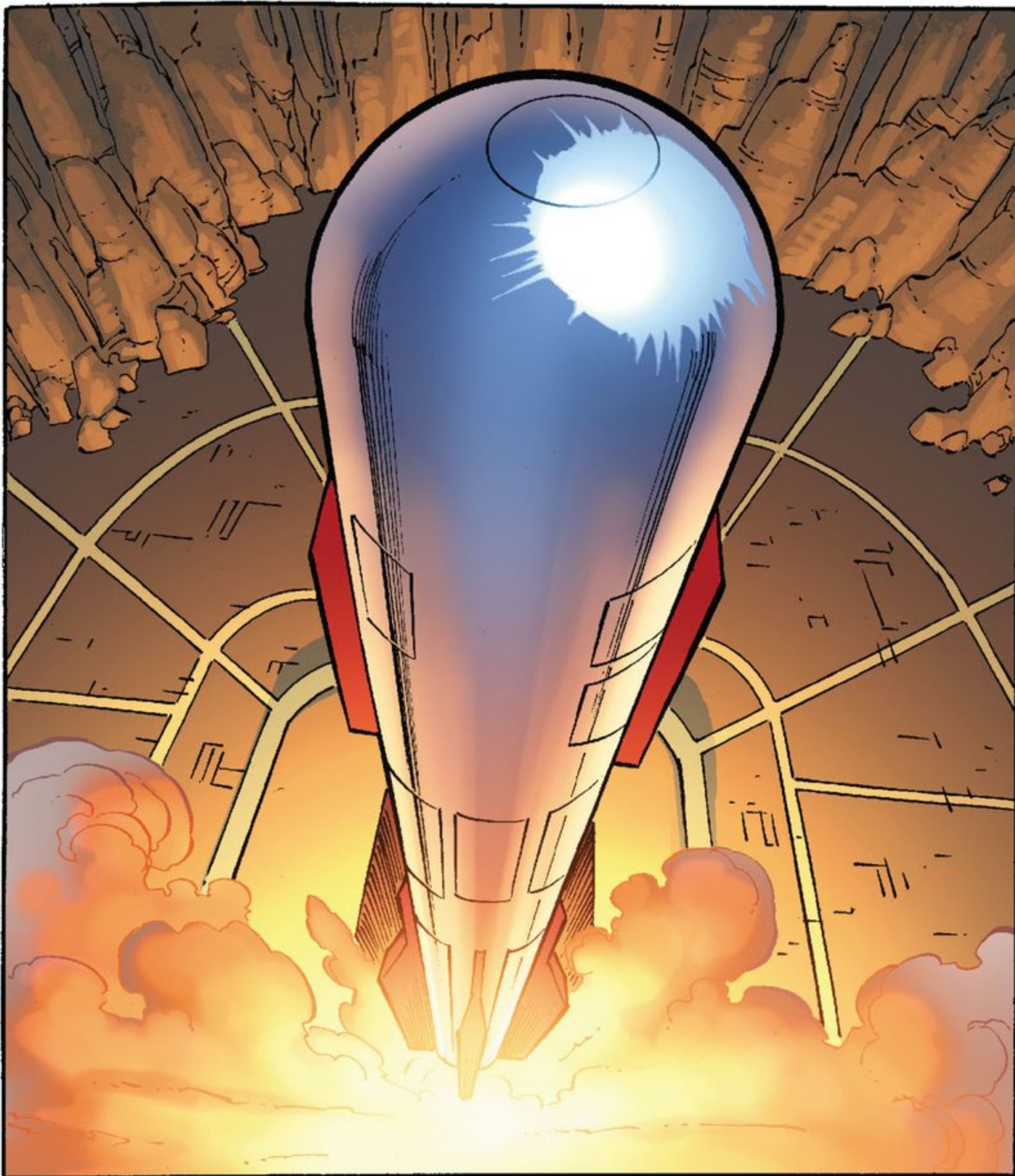
...BUT I DID JUST LEARN WHERE SHE'S HEADED.



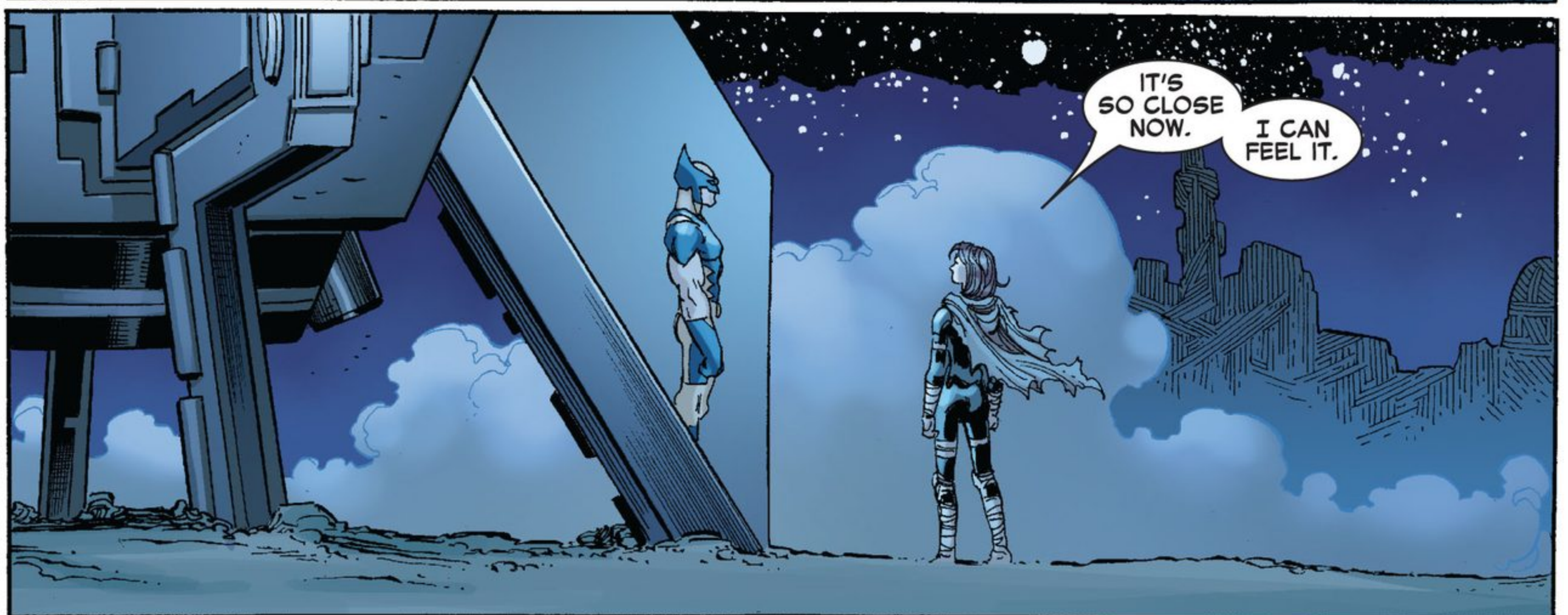
SCOTT... THEY KNOW!





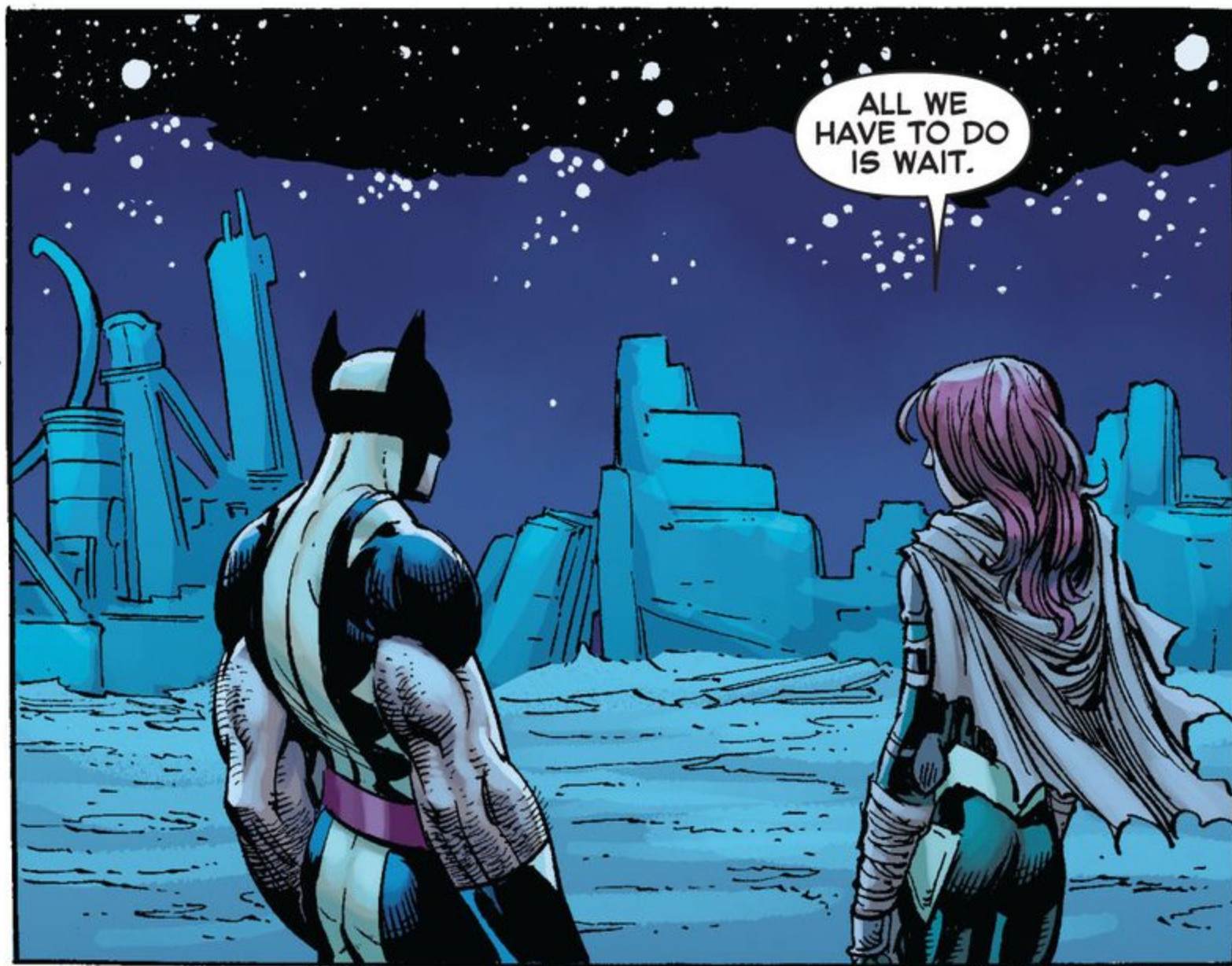


THE BLUE AREA OF THE MOON.
AN ARTIFICIAL ENVIRONMENT, CREATED BY THE ALIEN SKRULLS.
NINE HOURS LATER.



IT'S
SO CLOSE
NOW.

I CAN
FEEL IT.



ALL WE
HAVE TO DO
IS WAIT.



I'M SORRY,
YOUNG LADY. WE'RE
GOING TO HAVE TO
COMPLICATE YOUR
PLANS JUST
A BIT.

NO.
HOW DID
YOU PEOPLE
FIND ME?



AS SOON AS
HE KNEW WHERE
YOU WERE HEADED,
LOGAN LET
ME KNOW.

I'M AFRAID
WE CAN'T LET
YOU DO WHAT
YOU WANT.

WE CAN'T
RISK IT.



HOW
COULD
YOU?

A LITTLE CLOSING OF THE
EYES, A LITTLE FOLDING OF
THE HANDS AND WOLVES
WILL COME IN AND DEVOUR
ALL THAT YOU HAVE.

YOU TOOK
A NAP. I MADE
A DECISION.

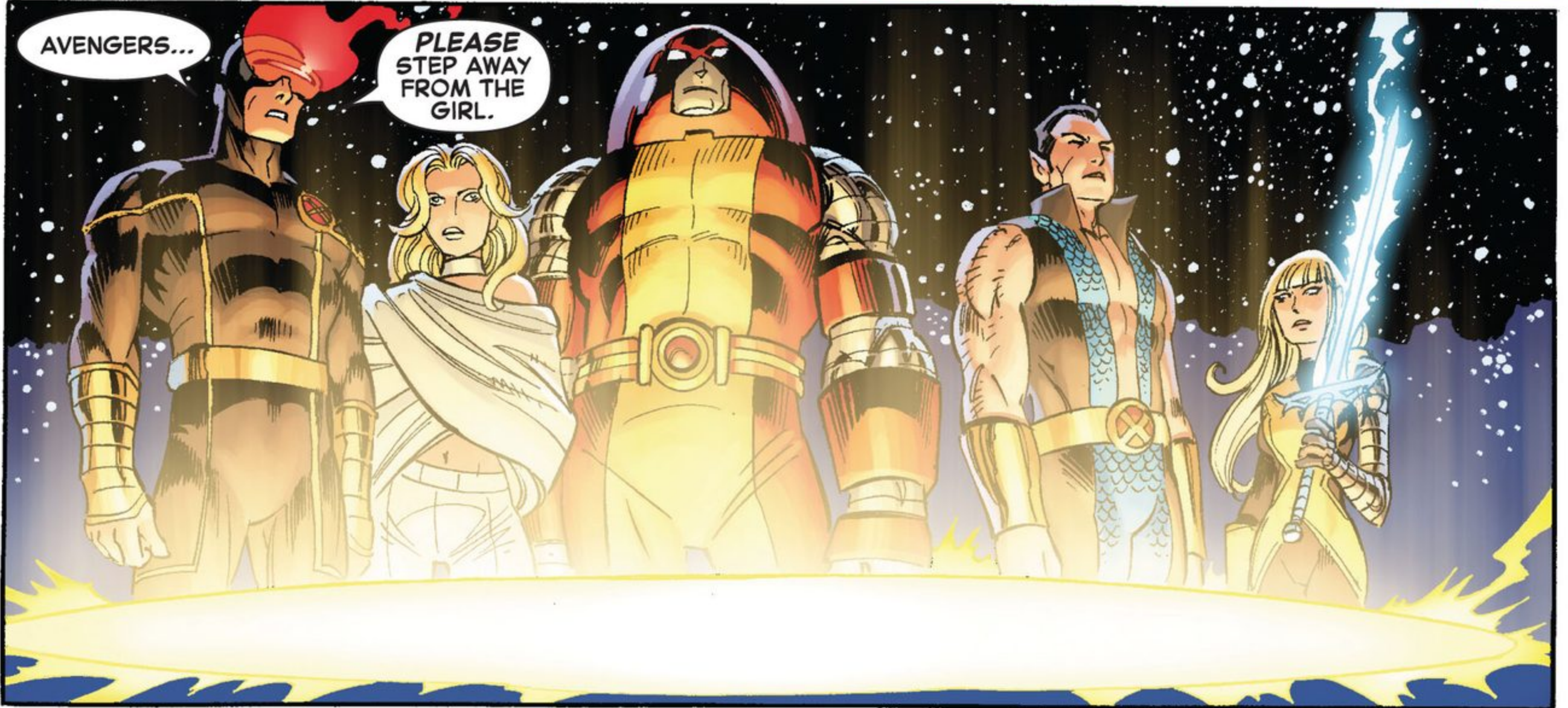
YOU
BROKE OUR
DEAL.

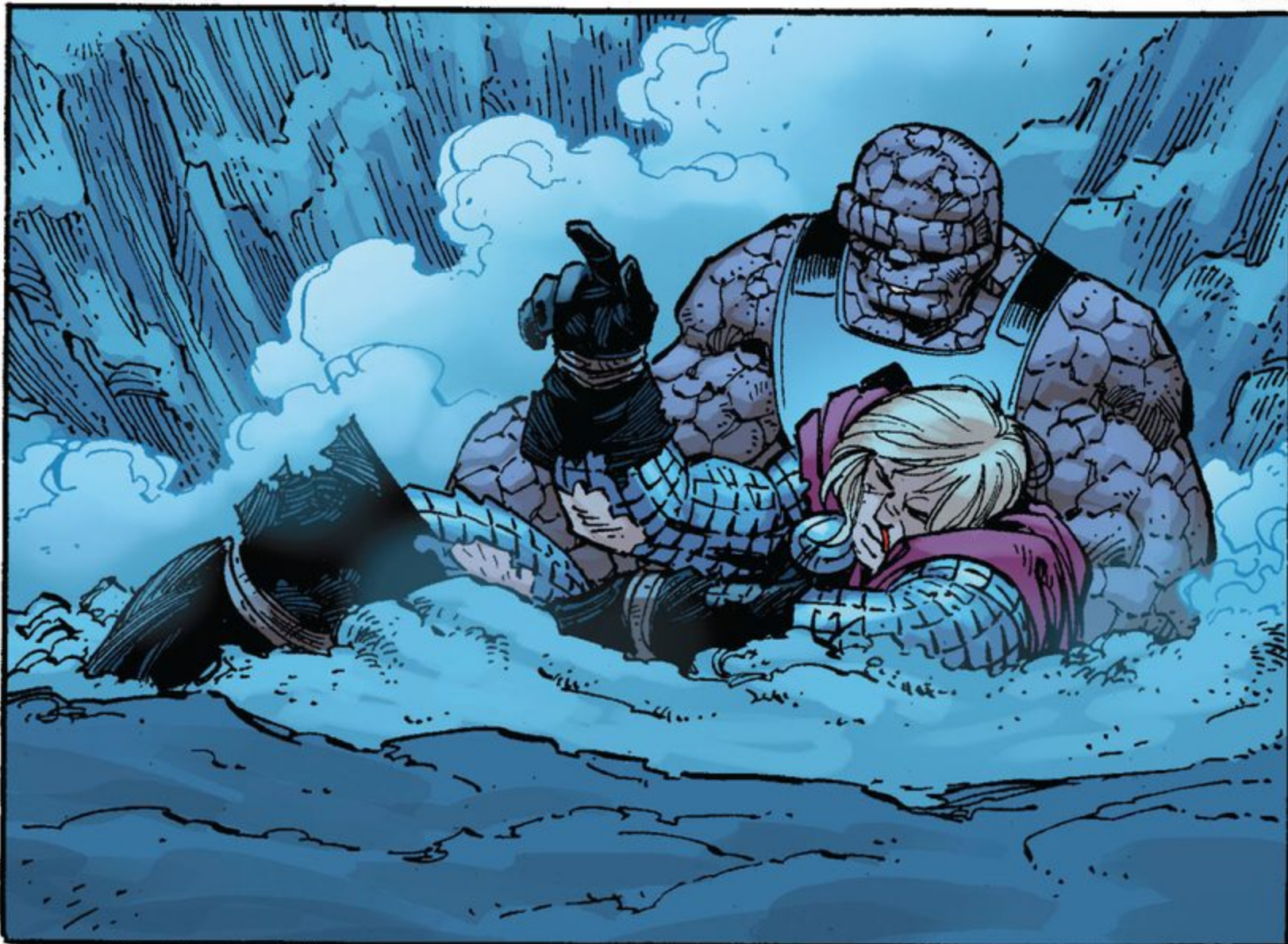
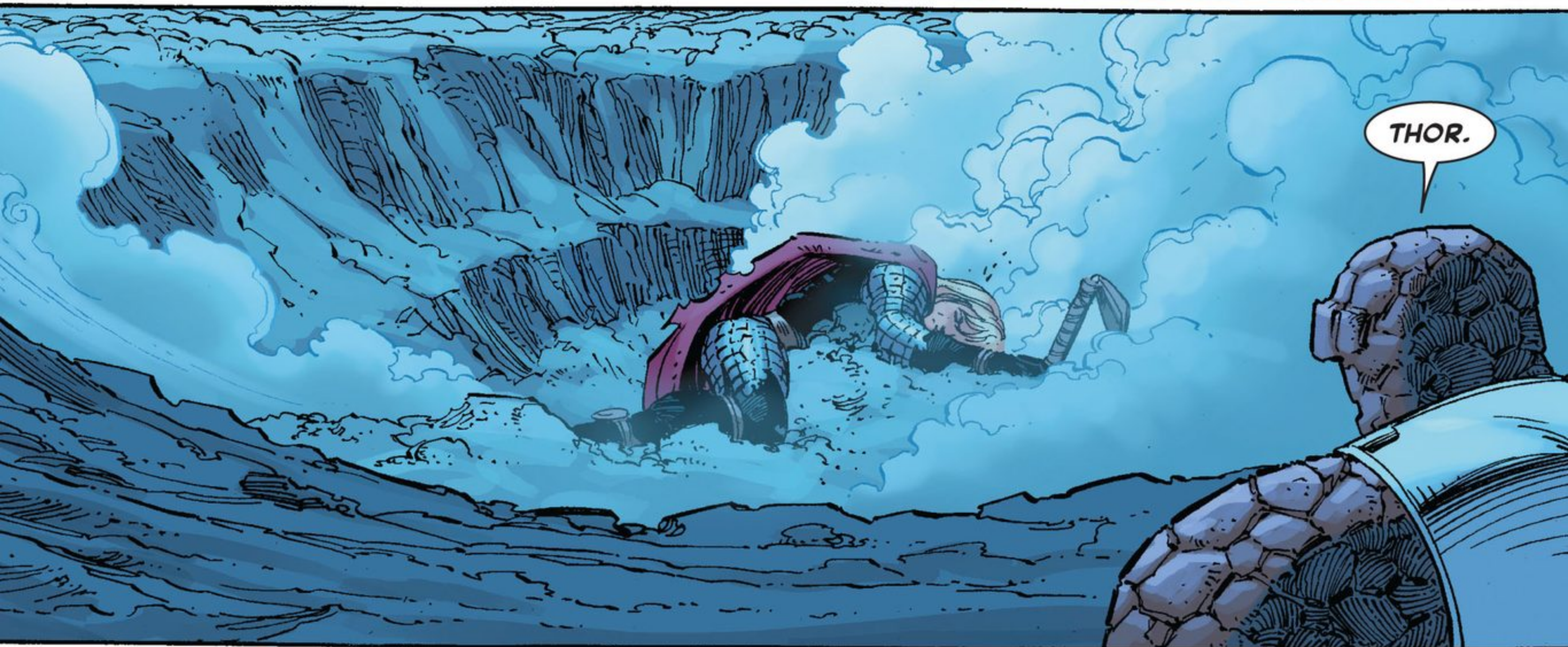
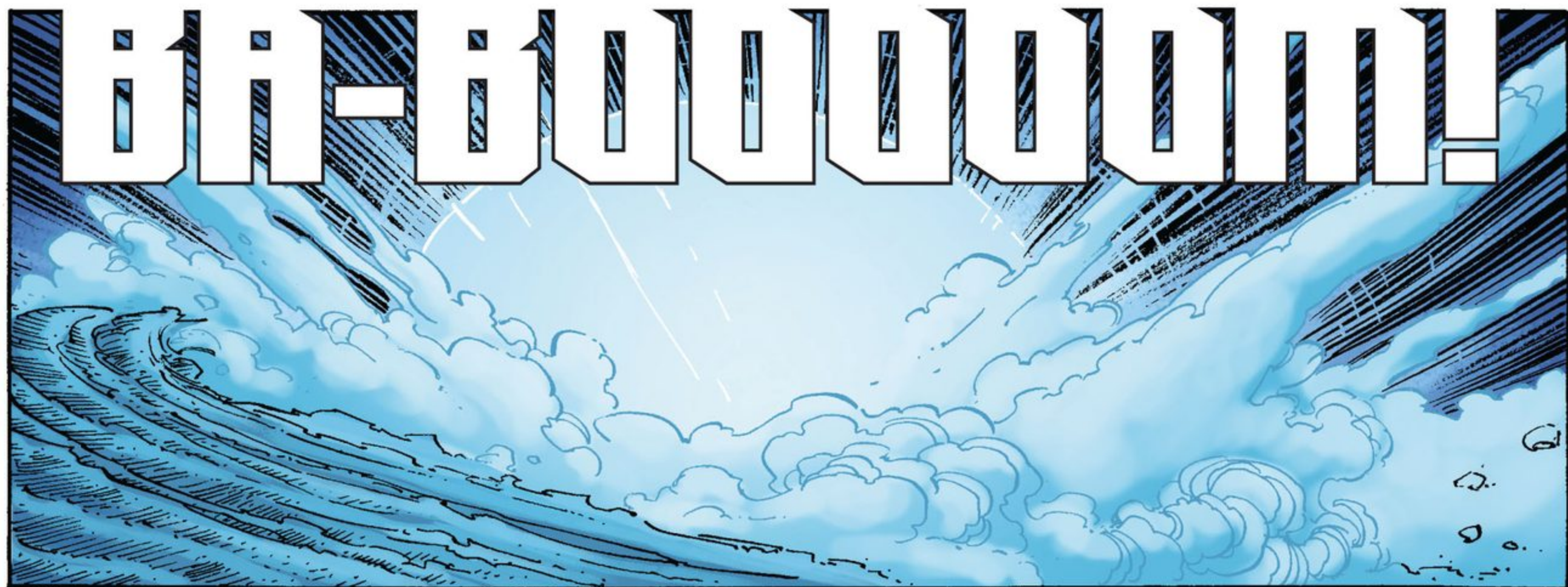


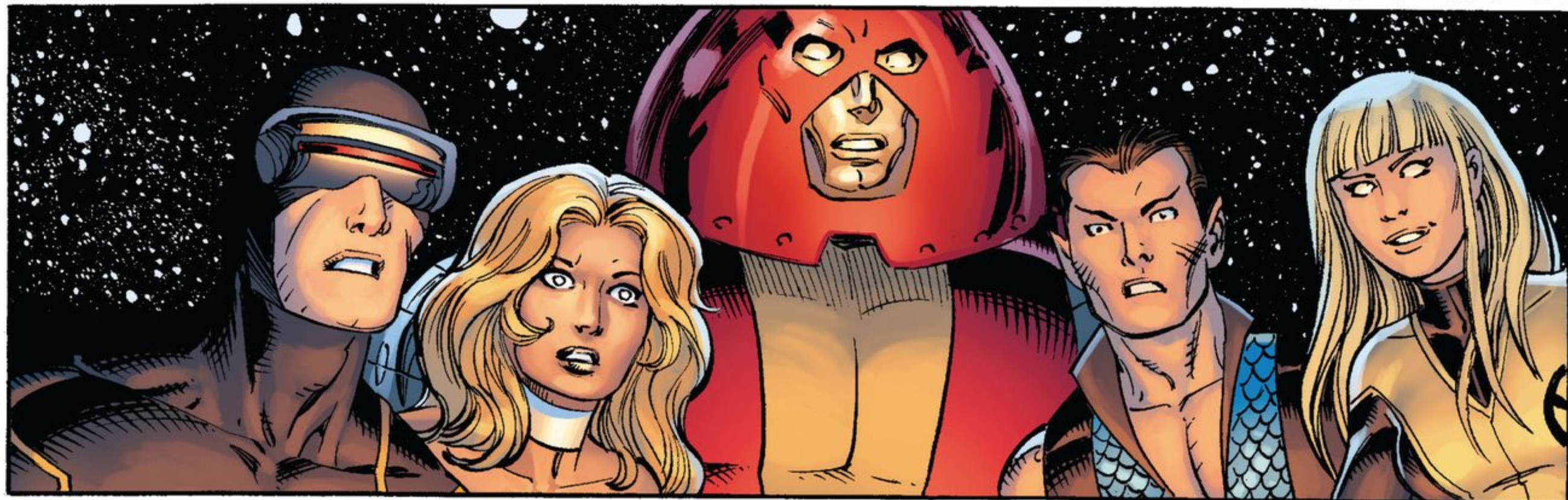
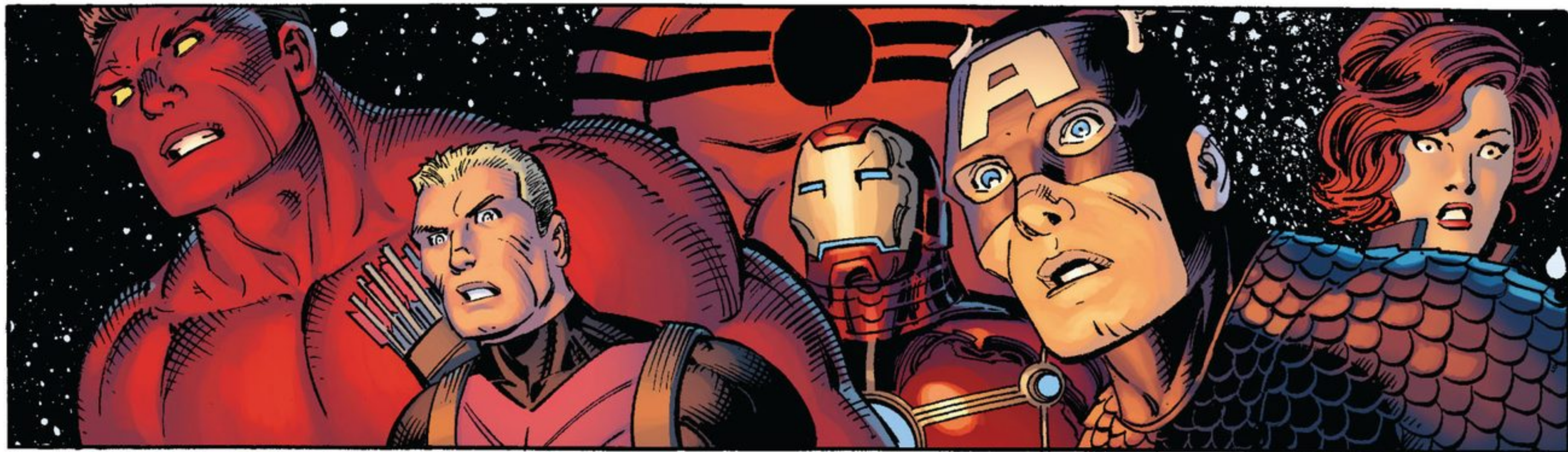
I GOT
YOU OFF
EARTH.

YOU THINK
YOU KNOW WHAT
THIS THING IS,
HOPE--BUT
YOU DON'T!

I WO--







**TO BE CONTINUED
IN THREE WEEKS...!**

X-
US

#5

COMING IN THREE WEEKS!

